

Members

Rep. Ron Liggett, Chair
Rep. Jerry Denbo
Rep. Ben GiaQuinta
Rep. Gloria Goeglein
Rep. Thomas Saunders
Rep. David Wolkins
Sen. James Merritt, Vice-Chair
Sen. Rose Antich
Sen. Lindel Hume
Sen. Robert Jackman
Sen. James Lewis
Sen. Marvin Riegsecker



INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE ON BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLE ISSUES

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: August 25, 2000
Meeting Time: 10:00 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St.,
House Chambers
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 2

Members Present: Rep. Ron Liggett, Chair; Rep. Gloria Goeglein; Rep. Thomas Saunders; Rep. David Wolkins; Rep. Jerry Denbo; Rep. Ben GiaQuinta; Sen. James Merritt, Vice-Chair; Sen. Robert Jackman; Sen. Lindel Hume; Sen. James Lewis.

Members Absent: Sen. Marvin Riegsecker; Sen. Rose Antich.

1. Susan Estes

The Chair, Representative Ron Liggett, opened the meeting at 10:12 a.m. Before beginning with the agenda, Representative Liggett asked the Committee to hear testimony from Ms. Susan Estes. Ms. Estes told the Committee that she had been driving without notification from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) that her license had been suspended. Ms. Estes told the Committee that subsequently she was stopped by the police and cited for driving while suspended and she received an additional ninety days license suspension. In addition, Ms. Estes told the Committee that because she was stopped while driving with a suspended license that she could not apply for a Hardship license.

Representative Liggett recognized Mr. Gary Gibson, Commissioner of the BMV. Mr. Gibson told the Committee that he would like to meet with Ms. Estes in an attempt to resolve the problem. Mr. Gibson introduced the appropriate staff members from the BMV to meet with Ms. Estes.

¹Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

2. Martin Murphy, Deputy Commissioner for Vehicle Services

Representative Liggett recognized Mr. Martin Murphy, Deputy Commissioner of the BMV for Vehicle Services. Mr. Murphy discussed the history of privatization efforts regarding the BMV and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles Commission (BMVC). Mr. Murphy distributed a folder containing documents addressing privatization. In his presentation, Mr. Murphy told the Committee that privatization had existed within the BMV since about 1950, with the Hoosier Motor Club (AAA). There were eight license branches in Marion County that were part of the AAA. In order to receive license branch services, one had to be a member of the AAA. This lasted until December 31, 1990, at which time the eight AAA license branches closed. Mr. Murphy also said that in 1991, the BMV solicited inquiries from interested parties who wished to provide license branch services. Mr. Murphy said that only three entities responded, First Farmers National Bank of Amboy, Fountain Trust Bank of Covington, and the Bank of Geneva. Mr. Murphy said that the branch in Covington closed in 1996 because of the lack of profitability. In 1998, the Bank of Geneva closed for the same reason. Mr. Murphy said that the First Farmers Bank of Amboy planned to close, but customers persuaded them to remain open.

Mr. Murphy then addressed the privatized functions with the current BMV and BMVC. He identified these as: courier service between branches and the Indianapolis Center/Warehouse; self-service terminals and Internet renewals; touch tone renewal, Commercial Drivers License on-site testing; defensive driving course--home study option; branch locations--pick-up documents to be shredded and recycled; branch locations--janitorial service. In response to a Committee question about advertising, Mr. Murphy said that it is easier for everyone, including the BMV, if there is no advertising just for one license branch. In response to a Committee question about advertising cost, Mr. Gibson said that the BMV pays the full price for any advertising it does.

In response to a Committee question about financing, Mr. Gibson said that the cost to operate the BMVC exceeds the income that the BMVC is allowed to retain. Mr. Gibson said that the BMVC collects hundreds of millions of dollars, but is allowed to retain only a specified portion of the amount collected.

Senator Merritt was recognized by the Chair. Senator Merritt told the Committee that perhaps it was time to begin to "think out of the box" in order to find solutions to the problems of the BMV and the BMVC. Senator Merritt further commented that choice for the consumer is important.

Mr. Gibson then distributed to the Committee a compendium of statistical data. This compendium contained, among other things, the names, addresses, branch number, the county, and the number of various vehicle transactions by branch location. In commenting about the statistical data, Mr. Gibson called attention to the last page of the document which was a listing of the 28 uncompensated services provided by the BMV and the BMVC.

3. Legislative Solutions Mr. Gary Gibson, Commissioner of the BMV

Mr. Gibson distributed a document entitled BMV/BMVC Legislative Solutions. This contained three suggested solutions with the potential for reducing the overcrowding situations in the license branches. The suggested solutions are:

#1 Registration Staggering:

Amend IC 9-18-2-8 to stagger the registration renewal dates so that some people would have to register by the 15th of the month and others by the 1st of the month.

#2 Full Cross-County Registration:

Amend IC 9-18-2-13 to allow for registration in any county in both plate and non-plate years.

#3 Electronic Drivers License Renewals:

Amend IC 9-24-12-1, and IC 9-24-12-5 to allow for electronic renewals of driver's licenses, allowing customers to renew online, by telephone, and at self-service terminals at least once in an eight-year period.

In commenting about the proposed solutions, Mr. Gibson said that 40% of all registrations are completed at a Self-Service Terminal (SST) after normal business hours. Mr. Gibson told the Committee that he will be traveling to Minneapolis, Minnesota, to visit the 3M Company and to learn first-hand about new technologies, such as flat plate technology.

4. Next Steps, Representative Liggett

Representative Liggett discussed Preliminary Draft (PD) 3141. This PD abolishes the Bureau of Motor Vehicles Commission (BMVC) and transfers the duties performed by the BMVC to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. After Committee discussion on PD 3141, Representative Liggett asked if the Committee wished to recommend PD 3141 to the General Assembly. A motion was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Senator Merritt commented that PD 3141 was a good start.

Representative Liggett announced that the next meeting of the Committee would be on September 15, at 10:00 a.m. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:00 noon.